

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting the use of a network address, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;

acquiring the network address from the signal;

acquiring identification data specific to the device from the signal;

~~judging~~ determining whether the network address ~~corresponds to~~ conforms to the identification data; and

sending a message preventing the device from using the network address ~~corresponding to~~ based on the determination.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identification data is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.
3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the message in the sending step indicates that the network address is duplicated.
4. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for limiting the use of a network address, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;
acquiring the network address from the signal;
acquiring identification data specific to the device from the signal;
~~judging~~ determining whether the network address ~~corresponds to~~ conforms
to the identification data; and

sending a message preventing the device from using the network address
~~corresponding to~~ based on the determination.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-executable process steps according to claim 4, wherein the identification data is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.

6. (Original) The computer-executable process steps according to claim 4, wherein the message in the sending step indicates that the network address is duplicated.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting the use of a network address, comprising:

connection means for connecting to a network and receiving a signal from a device connected to the network;

acquisition means for acquiring the network address from the signal, and identification data specific to the device from the signal;

~~judging~~ determining means for ~~judging~~ determining whether the network address ~~corresponds~~ conforms to the identification data; and

generation means for generating a message preventing the device from using the network address ~~corresponding to~~ based on the identification data determination,

wherein the connection means sends the message to the device.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein

the acquisition means acquires a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device as the identification data.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the connection means sends the message indicating that the network address is duplicated for preventing the device from using the network address.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting data transfer, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;
- acquiring a network address from the signal;
- acquiring identifier specific to the device from the signal;
- ~~judging~~ determining whether the network address ~~corresponds~~ conforms to the identifier specific to the device; and
- limiting transfer of the signal in accordance with whether the network address corresponds to the identifier specific to the device.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the identifier is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein, in the limiting step, the transfer of the signal from a first network to a second network is limited.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for limiting data transfer, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

- receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;
- acquiring a network address from the signal;
- acquiring identifier specific to the device from the signal;
- ~~judging~~ determining whether the network address ~~corresponds~~ conforms

to the identifier specific to the device; and

limiting transfer of the signal in accordance with whether the network address corresponds to the identifier specific to the device.

14. (Original) The computer-executable process steps according to claim 13, wherein the identifier is a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device.

15. (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 13, wherein, in the limiting step, the transfer of the signal from a first network to a second network is limited.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting data transfer, comprising:

connection means for connecting to a network and receiving a signal from a device connected to the network;

acquisition means for acquiring the network address from the signal, and identifier specific to the device from the signal;

~~judgment determining~~ means for ~~judging determining~~ whether the network address ~~corresponds~~ conforms to the identifier specific to the device; and

limiting means for transfer of the signal in accordance with whether the network address corresponds to the identifier specific to the device.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the acquisition means a data-link-layer identifier of a network interface of the device as the identifier specific to the device.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the limiting means limits transfer of the signal from a first network to a second network.